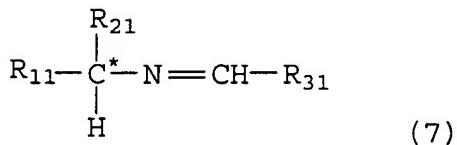


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An imine compound of formula (7) :



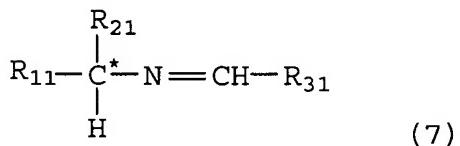
wherein an asymmetric carbon atom denoted by the symbol \* is in *S* configuration or *R* configuration,

$R_{11}$  represents an aryl group which may be substituted with at least one group selected from a C1-C4 alkyl group, a C1-C4 alkoxy group, a nitro group and a halogen atom,

$R_{21}$  represents a C1-C4 alkyl group, or an aralkyl group which may be substituted, and

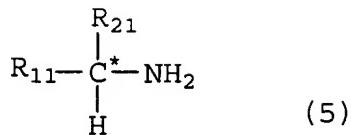
$R_{31}$  represents a 3-benzyloxyphenyl group or a 4-benzyloxyphenyl group.

2. (Original) A method for producing an imine compound of formula (7) :



wherein the symbol \*,  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{21}$ , and  $R_{31}$  respectively have the same meaning as defined in claim 1,

which comprises reacting an optically active amine of formula (5) :

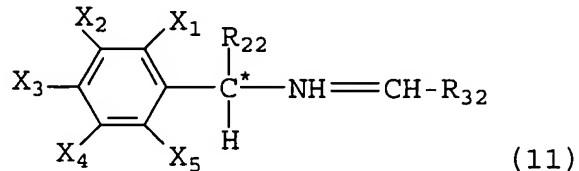


wherein the symbol \* denotes an asymmetric carbon atom, and  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{21}$  respectively represent the same as defined in connection with the imine compound of formula (7), with a benzyloxybenzaldehyde of formula (6):



wherein  $R_{31}$  represents the same as defined in connection with the imine compound of formula (7).

3. (Currently Amended) An imine compound of formula (11):



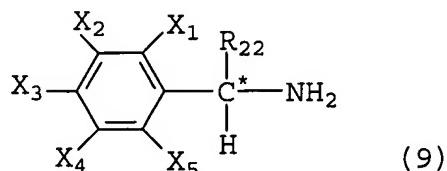
wherein  $X_1$  represents a halogen atom, or a lower alkyl group,  $X_2$  to  $X_5$  are the same or different and independently represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group or a lower alkyl group,

$R_{22}$  represents a lower alkyl group, and

$R_{32}$  represents an aryl group substituted with at least one group selected from a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, the group consisting of an aryl group and an aryloxy group.

4. (Original) A method for producing an imine compound of formula (11) defined in claim 3, which comprises:

reacting an optically active amine compound of formula (9):



wherein  $X_1$  to  $X_5$  and  $R_{22}$  are the same as defined in connection with the imine compound of formula (11), with an aldehyde of formula (10):



wherein  $R_{32}$  is the same as defined in connection with the imine compound of formula (11).